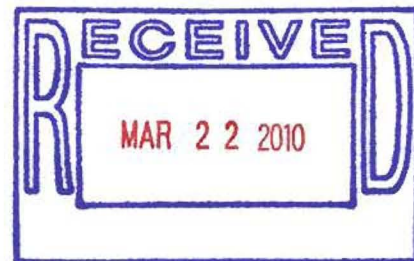




March 19, 2010



Rear Admiral William S. Stokes
Director, National Toxicology Program Interagency Center
for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233 Mail Code K2-16
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Admiral Stokes:

I am responding to Dr. Linda Birnbaum's September 18, 2009 letter requesting NLM review of the test method recommendations for the reduced murine local lymph node assay (rLLNA), and review of the recommended LLNA test method performance standards. Section 3(e) (4) of the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 285I-3) requires these reviews. The detailed recommendations are contained in the *ICCVAM Test Method Evaluation Report: The Reduced Murine Local Lymph Node Assay: An Alternative Test Method Using Fewer Animals to Assess the Allergic Contact Dermatitis Potential of Chemicals and Products* (NIH Publication No. 09-6439) and the *Recommended Performance Standards: Murine Local Lymph Node Assay* (NIH Publication No. 09-7357).

NLM agrees with ICCVAM's recommendations about the rLLNA, and with the recommended LLNA test method performance standards. The ICCVAM evaluation process that led to these recommendations included review by an independent scientific peer review panel, and comments from the public and the federally chartered Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM).

As you know, we do not have any regulatory or testing authority that would need to be in compliance with these recommendations. We do, however, heartily endorse the recommendations and the continued work to promote and encourage the development and use of alternative test methods that are found to be effective and applicable.

We will include access to this information via ALTBIB, our NLM database on "Alternatives to the Use of Live Vertebrates in Biomedical Research and Testing" (<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/altbib.html>). This database provides bibliographic references on many issues related to animal testing, and uses pre-formulated strategies to help users find literature citations in PubMed. ALTBIB also provides links to ICCVAM and other useful sources of information related to alternatives to animal testing.

We are happy to participate in the important efforts of the ICCVAM, and look forward to continuing to serve on this committee as it works to facilitate the evaluation and adoption of test methods that provide improved animal welfare as while protecting human health and the environment.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DL", is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg